



**CLARIFICATION FOR INSTALLATION AND CLEANING
OF
FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT
IN
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

Due to the installation of more large clinical equipment, modular-type furniture, large home-like freestanding cabinets, and indirect lighting in health care facilities such as hospitals, freestanding surgical outpatient facilities, nursing homes, and end stage renal disease treatment facilities, the issue of routine cleaning of such furnishings requires clarification. The following is offered to minimize problems in cleaning clinical areas:

1. Any fixed, horizontal, flat surface more than 68 inches above the floor must be enclosed by a soffit or bulkhead to the ceiling above, or provided with a sloped top (minimum 1 to 3 vertical to horizontal) in clinical and patient (or resident) care areas, including but not limited to bedrooms, treatment rooms, intensive care patient rooms, operating and delivery rooms, birthing rooms, nurseries, pharmacy and medicine rooms, medicine preparation areas within nursing stations, laboratories, endoscopy and cystoscopy rooms, cardiac catheterization and special procedure rooms, burn units, bone marrow units, kitchens and pantries, where sterile patient care materials are stored or assembled, and soiled utility rooms.
2. Furniture and equipment in clinical and patient (or resident) areas which are not easily moved by housekeeping personnel, and where sufficient access is not provided to permit cleaning under and behind the unit, shall be sealed to floors and adjoining walls. These items include but are not limited to work counters, ventilating hoods in laboratories and pharmacies, and the areas noted under item #1.
3. Equipment such as refrigerators, medicine and clean supplies dispensing units, kitchen equipment and similar types of furnishings must be routinely moved for cleaning. The attached definition for various equipment installations, taken from Michigan's Food Service Sanitation Regulations, should be used.

4. Equipment typically found in special imaging areas, such as special procedure and cardiac catheterization suites, and CT scanner rooms, including but not limited to electrical cabinets, floor mounted tables and gantries, exposed cabling and trays, conduits, and transformers must comply with the above conditions or the equipment should be located outside the patient treatment rooms in mechanical or electrical rooms.
5. Light fixtures in patient (or resident) areas must be equipped with a lens cover to facilitate cleaning, including indirect and recessed light fixtures. All light fixtures must be protected from accidental breakage of the bulbs.
6. When any equipment or furniture is installed in non-patient parts of clinical areas, such as ice machines, film viewing carousels, dispensing machines, automated picking machines, and similar devices which will be difficult to clean, the facility will be required to submit for approval a step by step cleaning procedure, including the frequency of cleaning.
7. A licensed health care facility assumes responsibility for keeping all furnishings, furniture and equipment clean and free of dust, dirt and debris.

DEFINITIONS:

- (a) Floor-mounted equipment, unless readily movable, shall be:
 - (1) Sealed to the floor; or
 - (2) Installed on a raised platform in a way that meets all the requirements for sealing or floor clearance; or
 - (3) Elevated on legs to provide at least a 6-inch clearance between the floor and equipment.
- (b) Equipment is easily movable if:
 - (1) It is mounted on wheels or casters; and
 - (2) It has no utility connection or has a utility connection that disconnects quickly, or has a flexible utility line of sufficient length to permit the equipment to be moved for easy cleaning; or
 - (3) It is suspended on a wall by brackets and can be lifted off of the wall by a device which can be operated by housekeeping personnel for cleaning purposes.
- (c) Unless sufficient space is provided for easy cleaning between, behind and above each unit of fixed equipment, the space between it and adjoining equipment units and adjacent walls or ceilings shall be not more than 1/32 inch; or if exposed to seepage (or contamination), the equipment shall be sealed to the adjoining equipment or adjacent walls or ceilings.